

Message Text

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ORIGIN INR-10

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EUR/RPM:RVPERINA
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TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 158601

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET NEGATIVE ASSURANCES

REF:A)USNATO 6132; B) USNATO 6150

1. IN HIS SPEECH TO THE UNSSOD, GROMYKO REITERATED
BREZHNEV'S FORMULA THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD NOT USE NUCLEAR
WEAPONS EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF "AGGRESSION" AGAINST THE
USSR OR ITS ALLIES "BY ANOTHER NUCLEAR POWER," AND
ADDED A DECLARATION WHICH HE TERMED "SIGNIFICANT": THAT
THE SOVIET UNION "WILL NEVER USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AGAINST
THOSE STATES WHICH RENOUNCE THE PRODUCTION AND ACQUISITION
OF SUCH WEAPONS AND DO NOT HAVE THEM ON THEIR TERRITORIES."

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HE SAID THAT THE SOVIETS WERE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO
APPROPRIATE BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH ANY NON-NUCLEAR STATE.

IN EXPLAINING GROMYKO'S STATEMENT IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION
AT SSOD, SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES HAVE INDICATED THAT
THE NON-USE PLEDGE STANDS ON ITS OWN AND THAT ITS
APPLICATION TO ANY PARTICULAR NON-NUCLEAR STATE IS NOT

CONTINGENT ON SIGNATURE OF A BILATERAL AGREEMENT, BUT THAT IF SUCH STATE OR IF ANY NON-NUCLEAR STATE SHOULD WISH TO HAVE A LEGALLY BINDING COMMITMENT, THE SOVIET UNION WOULD BE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE ONE.

2. OUR INITIAL VIEW OF THE GROMYKO ADDITION IS THAT IT IS AIMED PRIMARILY AT THE NON-ALIGNED AND THIRD WORLD, BUT IT MAY ALSO BE AIMED AT NATO COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON THEIR TERRITORIES AND MAY EVEN BE MEANT TO INVITE THOSE WHO DO TO CONSIDER THE BENEFITS OF REMOVING NATO WEAPONS. WE DOUBT THAT THE SOVIETS EXPECT A POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM WESTERN EUROPE. WE WOULD SPECULATE THAT, IF PURSUED, GROMYKO'S PROPOSAL WOULD TURN OUT ALSO TO PROHIBIT HOMEPORTING BUT NOT PORT VISITS OF NUCLEAR ARMED OR NUCLEAR CAPABLE VESSELS.

3. MISSION MAY DRAW ON ABOVE AS APPROPRIATE.

VANCE

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